

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

**REQUEST TO TERMINATE THE ACCELERATED MASTER OF PUBLIC POLICY PROGRAM
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA**

Action Requested: Consider recommending approval of the request by the University of Northern Iowa to terminate the Accelerated Master of Public Policy Program in the Department of Political Science in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Executive Summary: The request to terminate the Program resulted from a lack of enrollment. This request was reviewed by the Board Office and the Council of Provosts and is recommended for approval. This request addresses the Board of Regents Strategic Plan priority to pursue “educational excellence and impact” and Goal #8 – “Iowa’s public universities and special schools shall be increasingly efficient and productive.”

Background:

- ◇ **Description of program.** The Accelerated Master of Public Policy Program provides the opportunity for qualified UNI undergraduates to reduce the number of hours required for completion of the Master of Public Policy Program by meeting preparatory requirements prior to completing the Bachelor of Arts program. Seniors who enrolled in the accelerated MPP Program were allowed to take select graduate level courses in the final year of their undergraduate program. Those courses were applied toward the MPP Program so that students only had to complete one year of full-time graduate education upon completing their undergraduate program. Students in the accelerated MPP Program would only have to be enrolled as a full-time graduate student for one year rather than the typical two years for those students who were not part of the accelerated curriculum.
- ◇ **Reason for proposed termination.** There have been no students enrolled in this program for the last three years. The full Master of Public Policy Program was restructured in 2014. It is now available primarily through distance education with evening courses to facilitate the enrollment of adult learners who are employed and seeking advancement with a graduate degree; students may now enroll on a part-time basis. The accelerated program no longer fits with this new curriculum.
- ◇ **Five year trend in enrollments and graduations.** The accelerated MPP Program does not have a separate CIP Code; therefore, the department was unable to provide data regarding applications, enrollments, or graduates. No students have enrolled in the program for the past three years. Only a handful of students expressed interest in the program.
- ◇ **Effect on current students.** There are no students currently enrolled in the program.
- ◇ **Impact on resources.** The proposed termination is expected to have little or no effect on costs because faculty will continue to teach in the full MPP Program.

- ◇ Impact on workforce. Minimal impact on the workforce is expected because there are no students enrolled in the accelerated MPP Program. The full MPP Program has been restructured to be more accommodating to working professionals through online education, evening courses, and part-time curriculum.
- ◇ Alternative programming. The accelerated MPP Program is not available elsewhere in the state. However, the recent restructuring of the full MPP Program has negated the need for the accelerated program.
- ◇ Effective date of termination. If the proposed program termination is approved by the Board, termination of the program will become effective immediately because there are no students enrolled in the program and a teach-out plan is not necessary. The termination will be reflected on the department website and University Catalog.